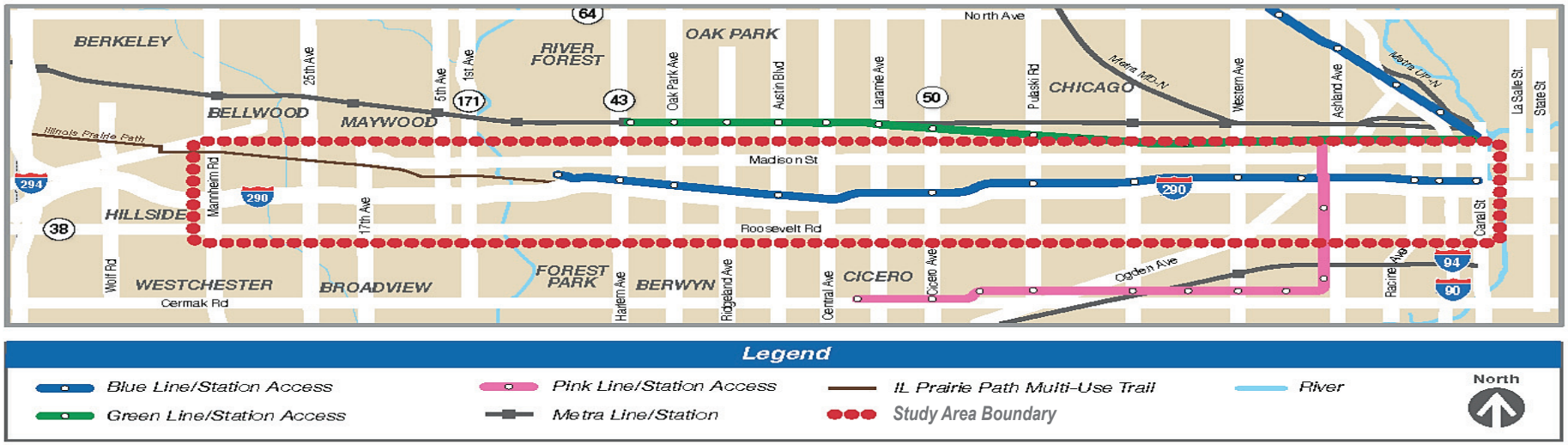
CTA Blue Line Study Area

CTA BLUE LINE VISION STUDY



HISTORY OF THE CTA BLUE LINE / I-290 SYSTEM

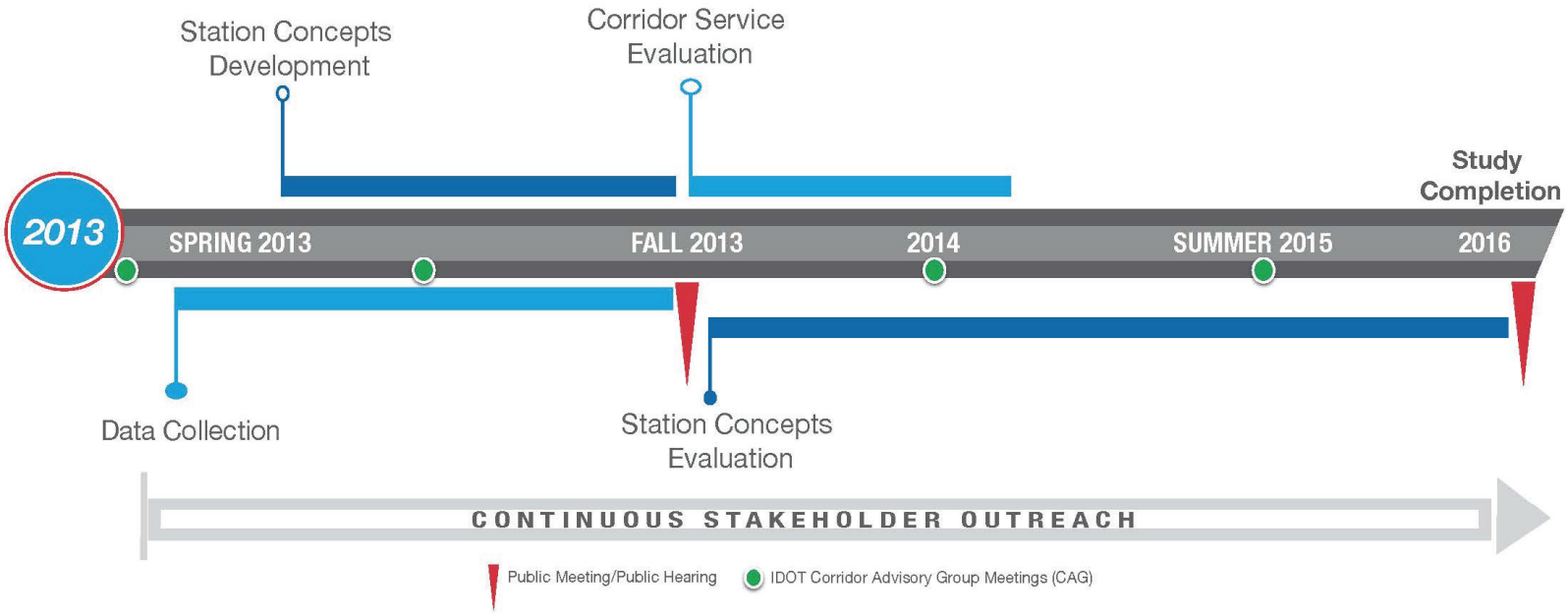
- Blue Line / I-290 infrastructure is 55 years old
- First integrated transit / highway facility in the U.S.

PROJECT STUDY AREA

- EXISTING CTA BLUE LINE: From Clinton Station to Forest Park Station

Blue Study Area Timeline

CTA BLUE LINE VISION STUDY



PROCESS

- Evaluate existing infrastructure & market conditions
- Conduct early outreach to project stakeholders
- Identify policy and funding options

PURPOSE

- Determine long-term vision
- Coordinate planning with IDOT for I-290 corridor

OUTREACH

- Participated in IDOT I-290 Corridor Advisory Group Meetings: 2/13, 7/13, 7/14, 8/15
- Participated in IDOT Public Meetings 10/2013, and IDOT Public Hearing in 2016
- Continuous stakeholder coordination and outreach during project

Summary of Existing Conditions Assessment

MINIMAL UPGRADES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AS NEEDED

- Special Trackwork: crossovers & switches recently upgraded (except Lathrop)
- Signals: recently upgraded

REMAINING ELEMENTS BEYOND USEFUL LIFE AND SEVERELY WORN

- Track: contaminated ballast, deteriorated ties, poor drainage, worn rail
- Stations: over 50 years old, only 4 of 12 are accessible, narrow platforms
- Structures: approaching end of useful life
- Traction Power: substation, cabling, third rail, etc require upgrading
- Communications System: warrants technical improvements
- Maintenance Shop and Yard: approaching end of useful life; inadequate track configuration and capacity

RECOMMENDATION

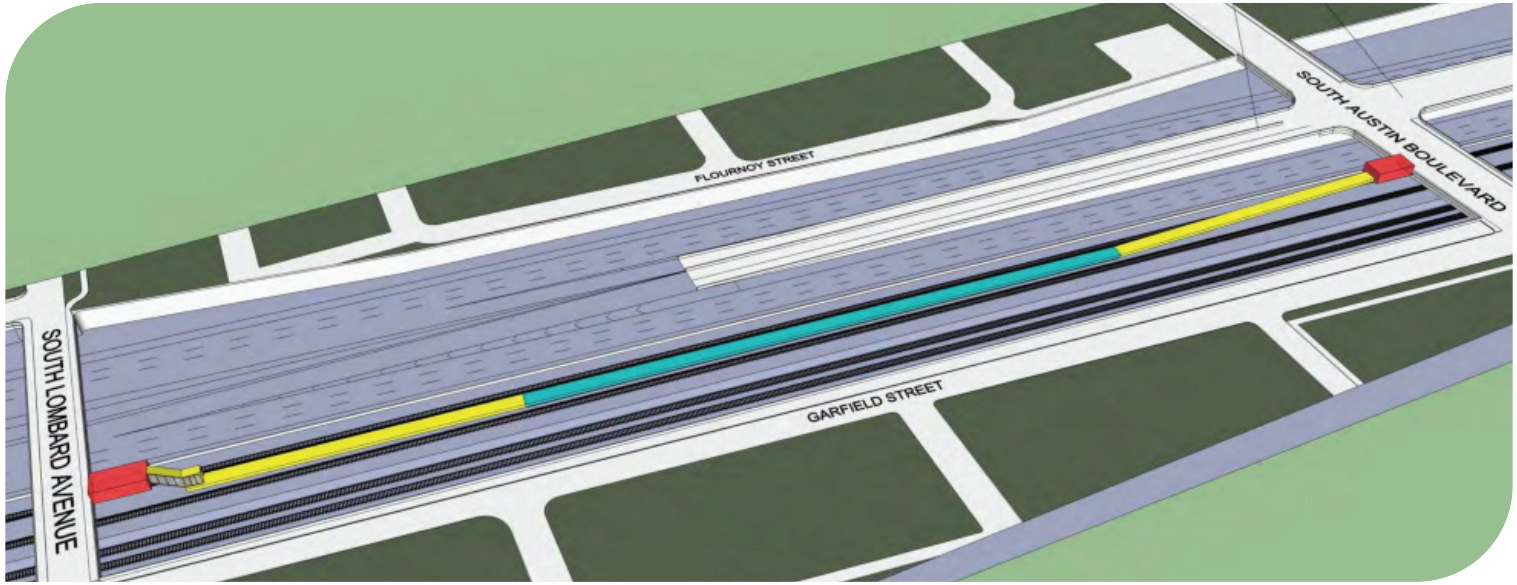
Complete reconstruction/modernization for the Forest Park branch

- Rehabilitate infrastructure
- Maintain existing entrance locations
- Improve customer experience
- Improve terminal site
- Maintain existing service
- Work with IDOT on corridor improvements

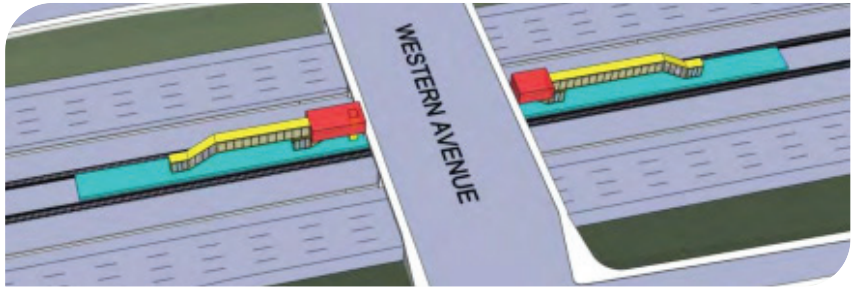
Maintain Existing Entrance Locations

Retain double and triple entry station entrances

Harlem, Oak Park, Austin, Illinois Medical District, Racine, UIC-Halsted



Dual headhouses possible for single entry stations with bus connections Cicero, Pulaski, Western



Improve Customer Experience: Conceptual Rendering

CTA BLUE LINE VISION STUDY

- ADA accessible
- Landscaping
- Pedestrian crossings/refuges
- Station entrance design
- Bike racks
- Lighting
- Design improves CTA maintenance & constructability

Improve Customer Experience: Conceptual Rendering

- Wider Platforms
- Shelter/weather protection

Forest Park Improve Terminal Site

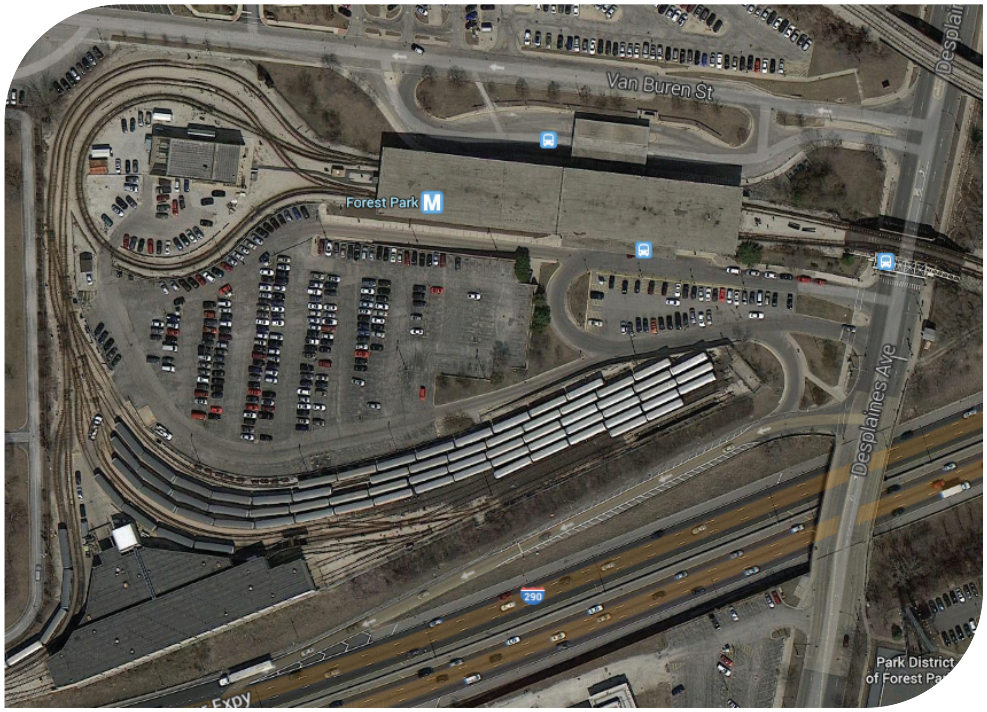
Redesign Forest Park terminal, yard, and shop within current parcel

Improve site circulation

- Bus circulation and transfers
- Bike and pedestrian access to the terminal
- Highway and traffic flow around the terminal

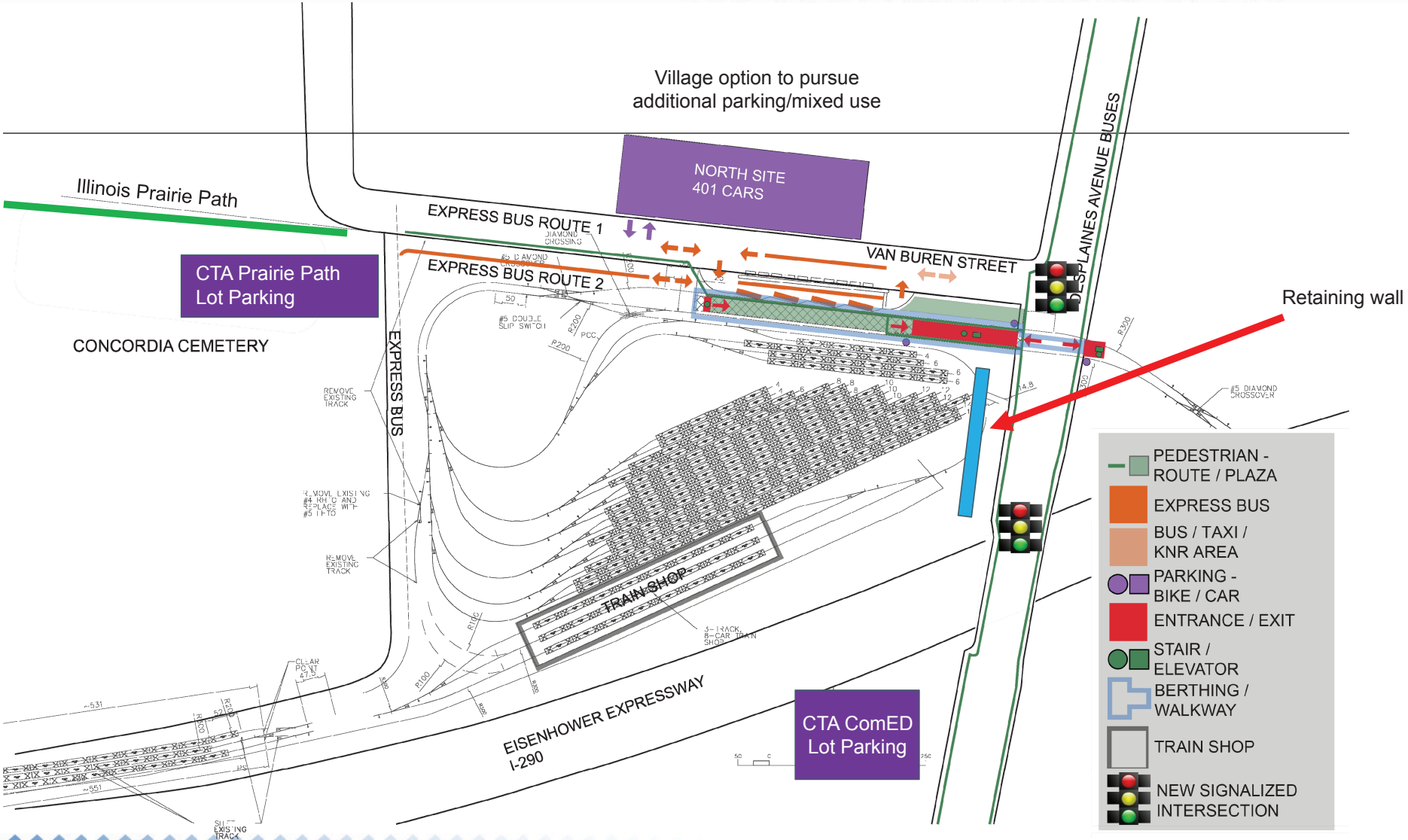
Meet increased yard and shop needs

- Inadequate fleet storage
- Inadequate shop size
- Improve yard configuration



Forest Park Proposed Site Plan

CTA BLUE LINE VISION STUDY



CTA Blue Line Forest Park Branch

CTA BLUE LINE VISION STUDY

CONCLUSIONS:

Based on existing conditions, full modernization is recommended.

- Rehabilitate infrastructure
- Maintain existing entrance locations
- Improve customer experience
- Improve terminal site

Maintain existing service: Long-term

- Bring service speeds up to state-of-good-repair
- No 3rd track or express service
- Already serves as west side express due to current station spacing
- Remove stations closed in 1970s

Short-term (immediate)

- CTA continues to perform interim slow zone maintenance work on branch, which began in spring 2014
- 5 nights/week, occasional weekends
- From Clinton to Forest Park, but focusing on west end of branch

Continue to work with IDOT on corridor improvements

- Coordinate on overhead bridges to improve stations and access from street
- Project may be segmented into track and stations Potential for coordinating long term cost savings for both projects
- Provide transit alternative during highway construction

Visit the project web site for more information and updates

http://www.transitchicago.com/blueweststudy/